

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FAMILY COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL CONYERS**

**Respondent.**

:  
:  
: **2017 NEG 219**  
: **2017 GDN 219**  
: **Social File No. 17 JSF 882**  
:

**POSTED NOTICE OF PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING**

**UNKNOWN FATHER**, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a guardianship motion is pending before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia concerning the above-named minor child.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear for a Guardianship Hearing scheduled on March 31, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., before Magistrate Judge Janet E. Albert in WebEx Courtroom JM-10.

You have the right to seek custody of the minor child or to challenge the guardianship. However, in order to do so, you must either appear at the Guardianship Hearing or file a written objection with:

Juvenile and Neglect Clerk  
Family Court, JM Level  
Superior Court of the District of Columbia  
500 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

You should contact your court-appointed attorney:

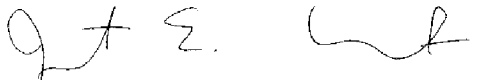
Kirti Patel, Esquire  
14325 Willard Road  
Suite 101  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
(703) 662-3227

You may retain counsel to represent you in these proceedings.

Your failure to respond to this Notice of Guardianship Proceeding can result in the waiver of your consent to the guardianship. Unless you appear for the trial, you may not receive notice of subsequent court action and proceedings in the case.

02/09/2022

Date

  
Magistrate Judge Janet E. Albert

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL CONYERS**

**Respondent**

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: **2017 GDN 219**  
: **Social File No. 17 JSF 882**  
: **X-Ref Number 6718509**  
: **Magistrate Judge Janet E. Albert**  
: **Next: 10/26/21**

**MOTION FOR PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP**

Comes now the caretaker, by counsel, and respectfully moves this Court to grant the caretaker permanent guardianship of the above-named respondent. In support thereof, it is submitted:

1. This motion is filed pursuant to D.C. Code Sections 16-2381, et seq.
2. The respondent is in the legal care, custody, and control of the Child and Family Services Agency [CFSA], a child-placing agency licensed by the District of Columbia.
3. The proposed permanent guardian, Gertrude Tuck, is a licensed kinship provider and will be seeking a guardianship subsidy pursuant to D.C. Code § 16-2399.
4. The proposed permanent guardian is the current caretaker of the respondent.
5. The caretaker seeks permanent guardianship of the following child:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Sex</u></b>	<b><u>Birth Date</u></b>	<b><u>Place of Birth</u></b>
<i>Michael Conyers</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>6/2/2012</i>	<i>Washington, D.C.</i>

6. The respondent has lived with the caretaker since November 2019. He was placed in the care of Gertrude Tuck by the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF), a contract foster care agency with the Child and Family Services Agency.
7. Ms. Tuck and the respondent are currently residing at 4770 Towne Park Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746.

8. The birth mother of the respondent is Martika Conyers. Her current address is 3220 28<sup>th</sup> Street, S.E., Unit #3, Washington, D.C. 20020.

9. The birth father of the respondent is unknown. His whereabouts are unknown.

10. Permanent guardianship is sought, because the child needs a stable and permanent home.

On July 31, 2017, the respondent was removed from his mother's care. At the Initial Hearing on August 17, 2017, the respondent was placed in shelter care. On November 29, 2017, the respondent was adjudicated a neglected child pursuant to D.C. Code §16-2301(9)(A) (ii) following a fact-finding hearing<sup>1</sup>. At the Disposition Hearing on December 1, 2017, the respondent was committed to the care and custody of the Child and Family Services with a goal of reunification with a parent. On July 2, 2018, the respondent was placed in protective supervision with his mother. On April 18, 2019, the respondent was placed in shelter care. Following acceptance of a Stipulation signed by the mother, on June 6, 2019, the Court revoked protective supervision with Ms. Conyers. On July 23, 2019, at the Disposition Hearing the respondent was again committed to the care and custody of the Child and Family Services with a goal of reunification with a parent. At the October 18, 2019 Permanency Hearing, the permanency goal was changed from reunification to guardianship. The mother is involved in the respondent's life and visits with him. Ms. Conyers has a history of mental health and domestic violence issues. She has failed to address her issues of domestic violence. Ms. Conyers is unable to provide her son with a safe, stable and permanent home. Upon information and belief, the mother supports permanent guardianship of the respondent with the movant.

11. The identity and whereabouts of the respondent's father are unknown.

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<sup>1</sup> The Court issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order on February 21, 2018.

12. ***Child's mental & physical health:*** Michael is in good physical health. He participated in a court-ordered psycho-educational evaluation conducted by Dr. Sheryl Frank at the Department of Behavioral Health Assessment Center on August 21, 2020. Dr. Frank gave Michael the following DSM-5 Classification: Developmental Coordination Disorder, Child neglect, Confirmed, Rule/out Specific Learning Disorder with impairment in math and Rule/out Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, combined presentation. On December 11, 2020, Michael participated in a court-ordered psychological evaluation<sup>2</sup> conducted by Dr. Sheryl Frank. She diagnosed the respondent with Developmental Coordination Disorder, Child neglect, Confirmed, Rule/out Specific Learning Disorder with impairment in math, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, combined presentation and Unspecified Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Michael currently participates in individual therapy with Bruce Tisdale from Hope 4 You. Michael previously received therapy from Family Solutions and receives community support services from Family Solutions. He is otherwise in stable mental and emotional health.
13. ***Guardianship versus Adoption:*** Guardianship is sought because Ms. Tuck, while willing and able to care for the respondent permanently, prefers not to terminate the parental rights of the mother and father. The proposed permanent guardian wishes the mother to be a part of her child's life and hope that by preserving her parental rights, the birth mother will have some incentive to assume a more constructive role in the respondent's life in the future. Additionally the proposed permanent guardian believes that permanent guardianship will provide the respondent with a safe, stable and permanent home.

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<sup>2</sup> The psychological evaluation was recommended by Dr. Sheryl Frank in her August 31, 2020 report of the psycho-educational evaluation of the respondent.

14. ***Efforts to Locate Parents:*** The birth mother is known to the court. Her address is provided above. The birth father's identity and whereabouts are unknown.
15. ***Itemization of child's assets:*** The child currently has no assets; consequently, a statement in compliance with Chapter 3 of Title 21 (Uniform Transfers to Minors Act) is not applicable.
16. ***Proposed Successor Guardian:*** The proposed permanent guardian has named her daughter, Ebona Brown, as successor guardian.
17. ***Information required by Chapter 45 of Title 16 (Repealed):*** Movant does not have knowledge of any other proceedings in the District of Columbia or any state or territory involving the custody of the child named in this motion. Movant had previously filed a motion for permanent guardianship of the child on January 16, 2021. Movant withdrew her motion for permanent guardianship on May 11, 2021.
18. ***Consent of parents:*** the birth parents have not executed consent and the reason consents have not been executed is as follows: the father is unknown and the birth mother is involved in respondent's life and in permanency planning.
19. Gertrude Tuck is a fit and proper person to become guardian of the respondent and believes that, it is in the respondent's best interest that permanent guardianship is awarded to her.

WHEREFORE, counsel for the caretaker respectfully requests that Gertrude Tuck be awarded permanent guardianship of respondent Michael Conyers.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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Sharon A. Singh, DC Bar No. 405220

1629 K Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

202-628-3886

Fax: 202-628-3887

Counsel for Caretaker

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the Motion for Permanent Guardianship was on this 18th day of October 2021, e-served on the following:

Rebecca Kohn, Esquire  
Assistant Attorney General  
200 I Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Megan Lucas-King, Esquire  
Children's Law Center  
501 3rd Street, N.W.  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Kirti Patel, Esquire  
14325 Willard Road  
Suite 101  
Chantilly, VA 20151

Cathy Braxton, Esquire  
300 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20001

In addition, a summons and copy of the foregoing Motion for Permanent Guardianship were provided to the Family Court Clerk's Office for service by CFSA Diligent Search Unit upon:

Martika Conyers  
3320 28<sup>th</sup> Street, S.E.  
Unit #3  
Washington, D.C. 20020

Unknown  
Address Unknown

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon A. Singh

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FAMILY COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL CONYERS**

**Respondent.**

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**2017 NEG 219  
2017 GDN 219  
Social File No. 17 JSF 882**

**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY POSTING**

Upon consideration of the caretaker's motion for service by posting on the unknown father of respondent, the lack of opposition thereto, the record herein, and for good cause shown, service on the unknown father of the respondent shall be accomplished by posting of notice of the permanent guardianship proceedings on the D.C. Superior Court website at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/serve-notice-neglect>

D.C. Code Ann. § 16-2386(b) (2001) requires that "the court shall direct... personal service upon the child's parents of a summons and a copy of the motion for permanent guardianship." D.C. Code Ann. § 16-2386(d) (2001) provides that "if personal service... cannot be effected, then notice shall be made constructively pursuant to the rules of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia." Furthermore Admin. Order No. 02-05 § IV (B) (b) provides that "if personal service upon a parent cannot be effected, any party may request and the Court may order constructive service in accordance with Neglect Rule 7(g) (now Neglect Rule 11(g) (3)). While Neg. R. 11(g)(3) and (i) do not explicitly provide that posting may be a means of constructive service, it does allow the judicial officer to authorize service "by such other manner as the judicial officer deems appropriate," where, as in this case, the parent cannot be located.



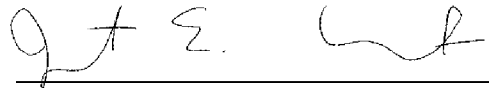
Posting is appropriate in this case because the father is unknown and cannot be located after diligent efforts to locate and serve him.

**WHEREFORE**, it is this **9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022**, hereby

**ORDERED**, that the caretaker's oral motion for service by posting is **GRANTED**. It is

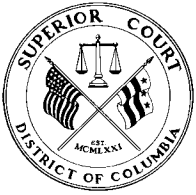
**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Juvenile and Neglect Clerk shall post the attached Notice of Permanent Guardianship Proceeding in the above-referenced neglect case at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/serve-notice-neglect> for a period of fourteen (14) days.

**SO ORDERED.**

  
Magistrate Judge Janet E. Albert

Copies via Casefilexpress to:

Rebecca Sokol, AAG  
Megan Lucas-King, GAL  
Cathy Braxton, Esq.  
Kirti Patel, Esq.  
Sharon A. Singh, Esq.



**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FAMILY COURT  
500 INDIANA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001**

**SUMMONS AND ORDER DIRECTING APPEARANCE (NEGLECT)**

<b>SECTION I. IN THE MATTER OF: M.C. (CHILD'S INITIALS)</b>		
<b>Birthdate:</b> 06/02/2022	<b>Case Number:</b> 2017 NEG 219	<b>Social File Number:</b> 2017 JSF 882
<b>SECTION II. PERSON TO WHOM NOTICE IS TO BE SERVED: Unknown</b>		
<b>TO: UNKNOWN FATHER</b>		<b>Last Known Address: UNKNOWN</b>
<b>YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED</b> to appear in person on the date and at the time indicated below. Failure to appear as herein directed may result in the issuance of a warrant of arrest for contempt. Bring this notice with you and do not depart without leave of the court. <b>YOU ARE TO REPORT:</b>		
<b>TO: Courtroom JM- 10 REMOTELY <u>call 202-860-2110</u></b> Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W. <b><u>and use the WebEx Meeting ID: 129 071 8189 and appear via telephone</u></b>		
<b>On: March 31, 2022 at 2:00pm</b>		<b>For: Guardianship Hearing</b>
<b>SECTION III</b> Notice: you have the right to be represented by an attorney in this matter. If you cannot afford to retain an attorney, the court will appoint one for you. Please apply at 500 Indiana Avenue N.W. Room 4416 at least ten 10 days before the hearing date above to execute the necessary forms.  Witness the honorable Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and seal of said Court.  <div style="text-align: right;">Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia</div> <div style="text-align: right;">By: _____ Deputy Clerk</div>		
<b>SECTION IV FOR USE OF U.S. MARSHAL OR PROCESS SERVER</b>		
<b>RETURN ON THIS SUMMONS IS REQUIRED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I hereby certify and return that I have personally served, have legal evidence of service, or have executed as shown in "REMARKS". the writ described on the individual, company, corporation, etc., at the address shown above or on the individual, company, corporation, etc. at the address inserted below.		
Name and Title of Individual Served (If not shown above)		
Address (Complete only if different than shown above)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual served is a person of suitable age and discretion then abiding in the person summoned usual place of abode.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I hereby certify and return that, after diligent inv investigation, I am unable to locate the individual, company, corporation, etc named above.		
of ENDEAVOR (Use Remarks if necessary) of SERVICE:		
<b>REMARKS</b>		
<b>Office of the U.S. Marshal, District of Columbia</b>		
<b>Signature of U.S. Marshal Representative</b>		